



PANDEMIC INFLUENZA U•P•D•A•T•E



CDC Prepares

Inside CDC

February 2007

Fast Facts

Pan Flu Accomplishments

Assistance to states:

- ☐ Participated in 50+ Influenza Summits

Guidance development:

- ☐ Assisted in developing the series of "Checklists" on Pandemic Flu Web site

Training:

- ☐ Implemented CDC Pandemic Influenza exercise program

Research:

- ☐ Awarded \$5.5 million for research on non-pharmaceutical interventions

Laboratory:

- ☐ Awarded \$11.5 million to develop point-of-care rapid diagnostic test

CDC Operations:

- ☐ Published [CDC Pandemic Influenza Operations Plan \(OPLAN\)](#)

International:

- ☐ Pre-positioned more than 250,000 antiviral regimens overseas to support international containment efforts.

[Complete list of CDC's 25 Accomplishments on Pandemic Influenza](#)

If You Are Asked . . .

How will an influenza pandemic response affect my work at CDC?

To sustain a proper response to an influenza pandemic, it may be necessary to temporarily suspend certain CDC operations to make the best use of and to protect the workforce.

Initial planning suggests that CDC staff will be impacted in similar proportion to the general population during a pandemic. Because CDC has the added responsibility to minimize the impact of an influenza pandemic, this has highlighted a need to identify and prioritize CDC's functions during a response.

"Although the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) identifies CDC's essential functions, the unique nature of an influenza pandemic requires additional and specific planning be addressed," said Jonathan Trapp, Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness.

To assist in this planning, a worksheet is currently being drafted that will help Centers and Offices review functions performed within their organizations. This worksheet, which will complement the draft Pandemic Influenza Annex to the COOP, will serve as a planning guide and allow CDC to quickly make decisions related to the management of the workforce during a pandemic.

"As the human capital impacts become significant, measures such as closing certain facilities and reassignment of personnel may be required," said Trapp. "Centers and Divisions should begin prioritizing their functions to pre-determined which functions would stop first, and where employees may be reassigned."

PanFlu FYI

Get Informed!

[CDC's Influenza Pandemic Operation Plan](#) is now available online.

<http://intranet.cdc.gov/od/panflu>

Checklists: <http://pandemicflu.gov/plan/checklists.html>

OPLAN: <http://intranet.cdc.gov/od/panflu/pdf/CDCPanFluOPLAN20-DEC-06.pdf>

25 Accomplishments: <http://intranet.cdc.gov/ecp/insidestory/story.asp?contenttype=article&chronicalID=0900f3ee80133f77>

“
Pandemic flu is not necessarily imminent, but we believe it's inevitable.
”

Dr. Julie Gerberding
CDC Director

EXERCISE, EXERCISE, EXERCISE

CDC Tests Pandemic Preparedness

CDC/ATSDR staff tested their pandemic preparedness last month during an internal exercise developed to test CDC's influenza pandemic preparedness, review the planning assumptions in the [CDC Influenza Pandemic Operation Plan \(OPLAN\)](#), and to review how they would react using functionally developed Standard Operating Procedures and Job Action Sheets for each function.

While it was only an internal exercise, participants from across the Agency took up their posts in the Director's Emergency Operations Center (DEOC), to practice what they would do in response to a fictional pandemic scenario. The idea was to improve CDC's overall response to essential responsibilities for coordinating public health, which is crucial in an event such as pandemic flu.

CDC's staff was faced with the complex issues associated with any pandemic. The exercise ran in real time and included shift changes, decision points, and appropriate actions for each DEOC section, supporting CCs/COs/NIOSH, and CDC leadership.

“For future exercises, CDC is coordinating to have a larger participation list that hopefully will include several states and other federal agency operations centers,” said Nancy Cox, NCIRD. For a detailed review of the exercise, please see [Pandemic Flu: Preparing for the Inevitable](#).



Photo by Kathy Nellis

Epidemiologist Dan Jernigan, MD, MPH, provides data to CDC Director Julie Gerberding, MD, during the exercise.

In Preparation ...

A Pandemic overview was held January 26 to provide DEOC and field staff an understanding of what CDC has done/will be doing to prepare and respond to a pandemic.

Participants were briefed on the following preparedness topics:

- ☐ **Planning assumptions**
- ☐ **Partnerships and work to promote preparedness**
- ☐ **Community mitigation strategies**
- ☐ **Detecting and investigating cases/ clusters**
- ☐ **Enhancing healthcare surge capacity**
- ☐ **Vaccine development, allocation, and distribution**
- ☐ **Antiviral distribution**
- ☐ **Communication and education**
- ☐ **State and local planning and the provisions of CDC Assistance**

The training is available on [CDC IPTV](#) and the [PowerPoint Presentations](#) are available on the [Panflu Intranet site](#).

<http://intranet.cdc.gov/od/panflu>

OPLAN: <http://intranet.cdc.gov/od/panflu/pdf/CDCPanFluOPLAN20-DEC-06.pdf>

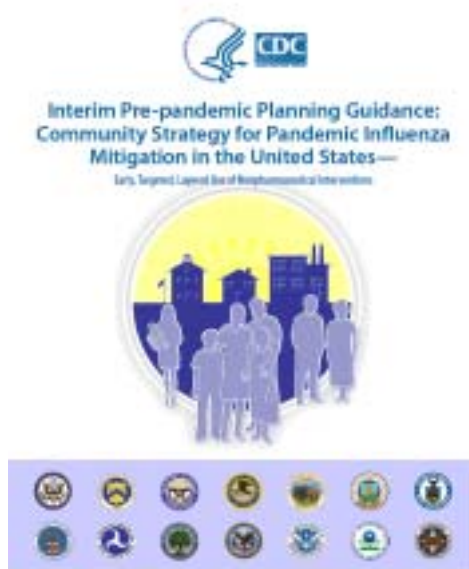
IPTV: <http://intra-apps.cdc.gov/itso/iptv/iptvod.asp?id=1169831080>

PowerPoint: <http://intranet.cdc.gov/od/panflu/pdf/1-26-07%20DEOC%Overview.ppt>

Public Health Prepares

Pre-Pandemic Planning for Community Mitigation Issued

The best protection against pandemic influenza - a vaccine that is well-matched to the virus causing illness - is not likely to be available at the outset of a pandemic. Community strategies that do not involve vaccines or medications (also called non-pharmaceutical interventions) may serve as a first line of defense to help delay or mitigate the spread of influenza.



Mitigation guidelines issued by the CDC this month include social distancing strategies to reduce contact between people:

- ☐ closing schools
- ☐ canceling public gatherings
- ☐ planning for liberal work leave policies
- ☐ teleworking strategies
- ☐ voluntary isolation of cases
- ☐ voluntary quarantine of household contacts

The guidance was developed through a collaborative process that included public health officials, mathematical modelers, researchers, and stakeholders from government, academia, private industry, education and civic and faith-based organizations. It will be refined as needed based on further knowledge gained

from research, exercises and practical experience.

The full document, entitled [Interim Pre-pandemic Planning Guidance: Community Strategies for Pandemic Influenza Mitigation in the United States - Early Targeted Layered use of Non-Pharmaceutical Intervention](#) is available through the panflu intranet site.

OHSA Unveils New Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for Influenza Pandemic

The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) [unveiled new workplace safety and health guidance](#) February 6 that will help employers prepare for an influenza pandemic.

Developed in coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for an Influenza Pandemic provides general guidance for all types of workplaces, describes the differences between seasonal, avian and pandemic influenza, and presents information on the nature of a potential pandemic, how the virus is likely to spread and how exposure is likely to occur.

Under the president's National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Implementation Plan, the Labor Department is responsible for promoting the health, safety and welfare of employees and providing guidance to assist employers in protecting the health and safety of employees during a pandemic flu. ([Full Story](#))

Update on H5N1

Animal Situation Update:

On February 3, the United Kingdom reported an outbreak of H5N1 among turkeys on a farm in Upper Holton, Suffolk Province. There were 7,000 cases, and 2,500 deaths. The source of

Update on H5N1 continued ...

the infection is unknown. Control measures including control of movement, screening, stamping out, and disinfection have been applied. [View the update on avian influenza in animals](#) from the World Organization for Animal Health Web site.

Human Situation Update:

On February 6, Egypt announced a new case of H5N1 virus infection, confirmed by the Egyptian Central Public Health Laboratory and the U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3 (NAMRU-3). The case is a 17-year-old female who developed symptoms on January 25. She was hospitalized on February 1, and died on February 2. Sick and dead poultry were reported at her home prior to symptom onset.

On February 3 WHO confirmed a human death from H5N1 in Nigeria. The case was a 22-year-

old female from Lagos. Poultry outbreaks have been reported in the area. This is Nigeria's first case of human infection with H5N1 virus.

(Visit the [WHO Web site](#) for the most recent human cases reports.)

Pass This On

The Office of Personnel Management has prepared guidance and information on the programs and flexibilities available to federal employees to help deal with the effects of a potential pandemic outbreak.

Pandemic Influenza Update: Reader's Feedback

The Pandemic Influenza Update is prepared by CDC's Priority Communication System and will now be prepared once a month. Information in this newsletter is sensitive and evolving. Readers are welcome to comment by e-mail to: panupdate@cdc.gov



PanFlu PSAs

Visit pandemicflu.gov to view a public service announcement about pandemic flu. The screenshot on the right is one of two PSAs available at the site. The [second video](#) can be viewed [here](#).